



36th Army Band

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

<http://138.27.99.10/usag/36arband/index.htm>

Winter 2004

Band Returns from Leave Refreshed and Ready to Go

After a busy-as-usual fall season of parades, Veterans' Day events, and holiday concerts, many members of the 36th Army Band took a well-earned two weeks of block leave in December. Some stayed in Sierra Vista, while others traveled to Wisconsin, Texas, and Florida to visit family and friends. Block leave ended on January 4, and the band began the new year by playing at an awards ceremony for soldiers who recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chamber Concert Series

The 2004 Chamber Concert Series began on Sunday, January 25, with an afternoon of music by the Dixieland Band. More than eighty people attended the concert, and the band had everyone tapping their feet or humming along as they played arrangements of favorite tunes such as *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *St. James Infirmary*, and *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*. Each tune elicited enthusiastic applause and cheers, and the audience insisted on an encore selection. At the end of the one hour concert, all the guests laughed heartily when CW3 Gary Dorrell proclaimed, "Now, if that doesn't get your blood pumpin', then take out those hearing aids and turn off those pacemakers, because you're done!" Much of the audience stayed after the concert to talk with band members and munch on refreshments provided by the Ethel Berger Center.

The next Chamber Series concert will take place on February 22 at 3 p.m. in the Ethel Berger Center. Admission is free and open to the public.



36th Army Band Dixieland Combo: Spc. Vladimir Barrios, piano; Sgt. Dana Fischl, clarinet; Spc. Brandon Taylor, trombone; Staff Sgt. Jim Gilbertson, tuba; Staff Sgt. Paul Buening, trumpet; Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Williams, saxophone; Sgt. Mike Brenmark, drums.

Coming Soon...

Several band members are taking advantage of CW3 Dorrell's budget allowance for professional development conferences and workshops. Look for reports by attendees of the International Association of Jazz Educators' conference and the U.S. Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Conference in the next installment of the 36th Army Band newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Please join the 36th Army Band at these events. For more information, call 533-2515.

Sunday, 8 February

Four Chaplains Memorial
2 p.m.
Tucson

Wednesday, 11 February

Rock Band Concert
9 a.m.
Gray JHS (Tucson)

Sunday, 22 February

Chamber Series Concert
3 p.m.
Ethel Berger Center (Sierra Vista)

Thursday, 26 February

Joint Concert with Buena HS
7 p.m.
Buena PAC (Sierra Vista)

Friday & Saturday, 27 & 28 February

Military Tattoo
Palm Springs, CA

Saturday, 13 March

St. Patrick's Day Parade
10 a.m.
Fry Blvd. (Sierra Vista)

Sunday, 14 March

Chamber Series Concert
3 p.m.
Ethel Berger Center (Sierra Vista)

Tuesday, 30 March

Stage Band Concert with Buena HS
7 p.m.
Buena PAC (Sierra Vista)

Spotlight on...Staff Sgt. Kathy Rittenhouse

Hometown: Lakeland, Colorado

Entered the Army: January 1989 (Colorado National Guard); January 1997 (active duty)

Primary MOS: 02B, Trumpet Player

Married to Christo Visser for one year. Christo is a sheep rancher in Willcox, Arizona.

First musical memory: Pumping my parents' player piano when I wasn't old enough to reach the pedals—I had to sit on a tiny little folding chair because I couldn't reach the pedals from the piano bench.

Life before the Army: College student at the University of Northern Colorado.

On playing the trumpet: I didn't start playing trumpet until my sophomore year of high school. I had played the viola since fourth grade, but I went to a private high school that didn't have an orchestra. I used to hang out in the band room of the high school my freshman year because my boyfriend played the trumpet. One day, the band director walked up to me and said he needed trumpet players for the following year. My grandmother still had my grandfather's trumpet, which he had bought in 1920 at Sears for \$25. It was a silver satin-finish trumpet, blackened from years of tarnish build-up. I got it cleaned up, bought myself a beginning band book with a fingering chart, and showed up for marching band camp the next fall.

On joining the Army: I was a college student at the University of Northern Colorado, studying music education. During my sophomore year, I decided I was tired of being a starving student, so I joined the Army National Guard to earn extra money and to pay for college.

In his spare time: Lately, I've been learning about sheep, sheep ranching, and pasture management. I've also been gradually moving my household to Willcox, Arizona. My husband and I are expecting our first child—a boy—in April, so we've been really busy getting ourselves and the nursery ready for his arrival.



Staff Sgt. Rittenhouse rehearses with the 36th Army Band's Brass Quintet.



Wanted: A Few Good Musicians

Almost every musician dreams of being able to make a living just by playing music. However, a good gig—one that pays enough to cover rent, health insurance, and other bills—is hard to find. The Army Band Program offers a steady income, free medical and dental care, paid vacation, and other benefits. It also has the most generous College Loan Repayment program of any of the armed services: loans up to \$65,000 can be paid off with only a four-year enlistment.

Any musician who is otherwise qualified to enlist in the Army and who can pass an audition given by an Army Bandmaster can serve in the Army Bands. Band members also have the option of choosing their first assignments, based on openings in bands around the world.

If you or someone you know may be interested in a career in the Army Bands, call or visit your local Army Recruiter.

**COMMANDER
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Recruiting and Scheduling Brochure

This brochure is available to anyone interested in the 36th Army Band and its performances. It is published quarterly and includes information about upcoming events in which the band will participate. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please sign up at any of the band's performances, stop by the band hall, e-mail us, or call (520) 533-2515. This brochure is for informational purposes only. All dates and times in this brochure are subject to change.